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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/017,329	02/02/1998	RYUICHI MATSUKURA	1083.1049/JD	8159
21171 7590 06/05/2007 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER WINDER, PATRICE L	
			ART UNIT 2145	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 06/05/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/017,329	Applicant(s) MATSUKURA, RYUICHI	
	Examiner Patrice Winder	Art Unit 2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-22 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-22, 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11, 16-22, 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jalalian et al., USPN 5,548,722 (hereafter referred to as Jalalian).

4. Regarding claim 4, Jalalian taught a computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a computer is connected to said connecting means (column 6, lines 26-30), wherein

said computer comprises resource information managing means for managing plural sets of information relating to hardware or software, including a place of installation in the real world for each of the hardware or software, which are usable through said network circuit corresponding to said connecting means (column),

position selecting means for selecting one of the information relating to plural sets of hardware or software managed by said resource information managing means (column 7, lines 15-26), and

resource setting means for setting the hardware or software according to the information relating to the hardware or software corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means (column 7, lines 41-49), and

when said computer is connected to said network through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means obtains the hardware or software information corresponding to the position selected by said position selecting means from said resource information managing means, and directly sets the hardware or software (column 10, lines 19-32).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

Art Unit: 2145

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 16-22 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jalalian in view of Blair et al., USPN 5,809,265 (hereafter referred to as Blair).

8. Regarding claim 1, Jalalian taught a computer network system (abstract) including:

a network circuit (column 6, lines 31-35);

a first computer fixedly connected to said network circuit (column 7, lines 15-26);

and

plural connecting means provided in said network circuit and capable of connecting and disconnecting a second computer (column 6, lines 26-30);

wherein said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to hardware or software, including place of installation in the real world for each of the hardware or software, which are usable through the hardware circuit (column 7, lines 41-49), and resource information processing means for taking out the hardware or software information from said resource information managing means in response to a request for information relating to usable hardware or software from another computer, and transmitting to said network circuit (column 10, lines 15-32). Jalalian does not specifically teach resource setting means in a second computer. However, Blair taught a second computer comprises resource setting means

Art Unit: 2145

for setting the hardware or software according to the hardware or software information transmitted by said resource information processing means of said first computer (column 4, lines 6-12, 46-59),

when second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means, said resource setting means receives the hardware or software information transmitted by said resource information processing means of said first computer and directly set the hardware or software (column 4, line 67-column 5, line 12). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that incorporating Blair's resource setting means in Jalalian's system for choosing network services would have minimized user interaction. The motivation would have been to allow the user to directly connect to printing services.

9. Regarding claim 2, Jalalian taught computer network system including:

a network circuit (column 6, lines 31-35);

a first computer fixedly connected to said network circuit (column 7, lines 15-26);

and

plural connecting means provided in said network circuit and capable of connecting and disconnecting a second computer (column 6, lines 26-30);

wherein said first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to hardware or software, including place of installation in the real world for each of the hardware or software, which are usable through the hardware circuit (column 7, lines 41-49), and resource information processing means for taking out the hardware or software information from said resource information

Art Unit: 2145

managing means in response to a request for information relating to usable hardware or software from another computer, and transmitting to said network circuit (column 10, lines 15-32) and resource installation position managing means for managing the position at which the hardware or software managed by said resource information managing means exists (column 7, lines 24-32). Jalalian does not specifically provide details of the second computer. However, Blair taught a second computer comprises position noticing means for noticing the position information indicating the position to said first computer when connected to one of said connecting means, resource selecting means for selecting an arbitrary hardware information or software out of a plurality of the hardware or software (column 4, lines 46-59), and

resource setting means for setting the hardware or software according to the hardware or software information selected by said resource selecting means (column 5, lines 43-55),

when second computer is connected to said network circuit through any one of said plural connecting means (column 3, lines 46-49),

said resource installation position managing means of said first computer reads out the hardware or software information corresponding to the position information noticed by said position noticing means from said resource information managing means, and transmits to said second computer (column 6, line 66 – column 6, line 6),

said resource setting means of said second computer directly sets the hardware or software selected by said resource selecting means in the hardware or software

information received from said first computer (column 5, lines 43-55). For motivation for combination see claim 1, above.

10. Claim 3 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource information holding means for holding the resource information relating to the resources that can be managed directly and comparing means for comparing the content of the resource information holding means and the content of the resource information managing means of the first computer, detecting a replaceable resource. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Blair for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 (Supra 1). Blair, also taught resource information holding means for holding the resource information relating to the resources that can be managed directly and comparing means for comparing the content of the resource information holding means and the content of the resource information managing means of the first computer, detecting a replaceable resource (column 5, lines 28-42).

11. Claim 5 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a comparing means for comparing an updated time of the hardware or software information of said resource managing means of the second computer and an updated time of the hardware or software information of said resource managing means of said first computer. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Blair for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 (Supra 1). Also, Blair taught comparing means for comparing an updated time of the hardware or software information of said resource managing means of the second computer and an updated time of the

hardware or software information of said resource managing means of said first computer (column 6, lines 21-67; column 7, lines 1-12).

12. Claim 6 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource updating means for updating the content of the resource information managing means when receiving an updated resource. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Blair for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 (Supra 1). Also, Blair further taught a resource updating means for updating the content of the resource information managing means when receiving updated resource information (column 6, lines 21-67; column 7, lines 1-12).

13. Claims 10-11 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource noticing means for noticing the content of the resource information managing means and updating resource information registering means by receiving the updated resource information from the computer. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Blair for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 (Supra 1). Weiser-Theimer taught a resource noticing means for noticing the content of the resource information managing means and updating resource information registering means by receiving the updated resource information from the computer (column 6, lines 21-67; column 7, lines 1-12).

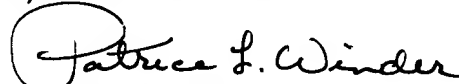
14. Claims 7-9 and 16-22, 27 have similar limitations as claims 1. Therefore, they are rejected under Blair for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 (Supra 1).

Conclusion

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrice Winder whose telephone number is 571-272-3935. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 am-7:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571-272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Patrice Winder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2145

May 28, 2007